Replacement of Jumbo air craft fleet by Air India

921. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India propose to replace its fleet of Jumbo air craft; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Road accidents

922. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether rate of road accidents in India viz., 34.6 per 10,000 vehicles is highest in the world;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the steps Government are taking to reduce this rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir. The rate of road accidents per 10,000 vehicles in India, which was 251 during 1984, is not the highest.

(b) and (c) The main reasons for road accidents are human failure, bad roads, mechanical defect in vehicles and increasing vehicle population. Some of the steps taken on a continuing basis to reduce accidents are tightening of rules and regulations for issue of driving licences strict medical tests, vehicle certification tests, enforcement of safe exle weights, geomatric intersection improvements.

Japan airlines cargo uplifted by British Airways at Indira Gandhi International Airport

923. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express of October 13, 1986 to the effect that the West bound cargo booked by Japan Airlines was uplifted by British Airways from the Indira Gandhi International Airport Cargo complex;

(b) whether Government have conducted investigation in the case;

(c) if so, what is the result thereof and the action taken by Government against the erring persons; and

(d) what action is being taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter has been investigated by the I.A.A.I. The investigation reveals that the pallet load in question was not tagged by Japan Airlines when it was put in the stacker. The pallet was retrieved by British Airways and shifted to ramp-side without verification. Since loading of cargo into the aircraft is the responsibility of the concerned airlines, no action is proposed to be taken against the IAAI officials.

(d) The airlines have been advised to fix their destination tags when the loaded pallets are stacked in the stackers for clear identification of the pallets and to recheck the tags before loading on to the aircraft.

Syllabi of Engineering Courses

924. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of HUMAN RE-

SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the syllabi of the various Engineering Courses include the topic 'security and proper maintenance of chemical industry; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to include the same?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The topic of 'security and proper maintenance of Chemical industry' as such is not included in the syllabi of various Engineering Courses. However, the maintenance of equipment etc. in the industries is generally taught in the syllabi of various Engineering Courses.

(b) There is no proposal before the Government at present to include the above mentioned topic in the syllabi of Engineering Courses.

High level of protein—A cause of Cancer

925. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Cancer Centre in Japan have found incidence of cancer in persons taking high levels of protein on the western style; and

(b) whether similar studies have been conducted in this country, if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Urban Transport System

926. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group has been formed to suggest means to reduce congestion in urban transport and to suggest alternative system; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Study Group are as under:—

(i) To recommend alternative systems of urban transport which could be developed using the latest available transport technology;

(ii) To establish parameters for such systems to suit Indian cities and conditions;

(iii) To establish capabilities and costs of various systems manufactured internationally and the expertise and general commercial conditions with which they are available looking at the trade-offs between various alternatives;

(iv) To consider any other issue relevant to the subject.

Construction of highways

927. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration to partly finance construction of highways by private parties; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?